

May 2005

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From the Director's Desk

Last fall, the GSL leadership and I began thinking about how we could begin taking GSL from a “good” organization to a “great” organization. We know we do many things well, and we have great people, but we also know there's always room for improvement. We established new goals for the next fiscal year to improve our people, our funding, and our products, stretching beyond what we have achieved in previous years. I reviewed these new goals with you at our October 2004 Town Hall meeting. Let's see how we're doing so far....

Goal 1: Publish 33 journal articles in FY05. This goal reflects our need to publish more of our work in the literature, to build the credibility of our organization and help our people grow in their careers. So far this year (Oct-Mar), we've published 3 journal articles, had 12 accepted for publication, and have 28 submitted for publication.

Goal 2: Strive for 80% of Engineers or Scientists (E&S's) with M.S. or Ph.D. degrees. Our goal is to increase the number of E&S's with graduate degrees from 126 last year to 130 this fiscal year (or 74% of a total 175 E&S). Obtaining a graduate degree is an important step in your career and enhances your ability to conduct the research that is so vital to our mission. Increasing our percentage of E&S's with graduate degrees improves our effectiveness as an organization and raises our stature in the eyes of our customers and the public. The 80% goal will not be reached in 1 year, but it's one to strive for over the next few years.

Goal 3: Get 10 new customers. Most of our business comes from repeat customers, and the viability of our future depends greatly on taking care of these customers. However, most of our new growth will probably come from new customers, so we will increase our customer base by seeking “new customers.” (New customers are defined as those for which we haven't worked in over 3 years, and fund us for \$50K or more.) So far, we have four new customers this fiscal year: Rapid Equipping Force, \$250K, SvEB; the 307th Engineer Battalion, \$85K, TEOC; the Combined Joint Task Force 76, \$90K, TEOC (*way to go TEOC!*); and \$200K from the Department of Homeland Security, STs.

Goal 4: Strive for 60% of GSL E&S, technicians, and administrative personnel to obtain their professional licenses and/or certifications. This goal speaks to our professionalism as engineers, administrators, and technicians. Very few of our jobs actually require a professional license or certification. However, many personal and professional benefits are associated with obtaining a professional



(Continued on page 2)

From the Director's Desk (Concluded)

license or becoming certified, and our stature is enhanced in the eyes of the public. This is another long-term goal, but our goal is for 110 of our 275 total Federal employees to obtain a license or certification in FY05. So far, 95 GSL Federal employees are registered or have some type of certification; so, we need 15 more to fulfill our FY05 goal.

Goal 5: Increase funding to 3 times E&S salaries. Increasing our funding (per employee) enables us to better perform our mission in support of the warfighter and the Nation. Our experience tells us that when we bring in about three times the salaries of our E&S's as an annual program, we're at an optimal performance level; last year we obtained about 2.7 times our E&S's salaries. Our expectation is to increase our total burdenable obligations (the type of funding that helps us cover our expenses) to \$43.6M in FY05 (from \$41.5M in FY04). Here's the good news: so far this year, we've received over \$40M, and we expect to receive over \$45M by the end of the year.

I'm proud of you and what you've achieved so far this year. As you can see, it will be a challenge for us to reach our goals this fiscal year, but most worthy goals are challenging to meet. I appreciate everything you've done and continue to do toward meeting them.

Keep up the great work!

David Pittman

Events Calendar

May 1-31, **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**

May 30, **Memorial Day** holiday

Jun 1, **Ed Jackson's retirement celebration**, 2 pm, WES Main Auditorium and reception immediately afterward in Classroom 1; POC: [Gwen Foster](#)

Jun 7, **ERDC-Vicksburg Summer Blood Drive**, 8 am-4:30 pm, Bldg 1006, Classrooms 1 and 2, POC: [Kay Bennett](#), x3241

Jun 16, **Engineer Day 2005**

Jun 27-29, **7th International Conference on the Bearing Capacity of Roads, Railways, and Airfields**, Trondheim, Norway; [Web registration page](#)

Jun 27-30, **European Simulation Interoperability Workshop**, Toulouse, France, POC: [Alex Baylot](#), x3474, [info Web site](#)

Jul 4, **Independence Day** holiday

Sep 5, **Labor Day** holiday

Oct 10, **Columbus Day** holiday

Oct 30-Nov 4, **76th Shock and Vibration Symposium**, New Orleans, LA; [info Web site](#); POC: [Joel Leifer](#), 301-596-0100; featured Government agencies—ERDC and DTRA; featured companies—Weidlinger Associates, Inc., and MSC.Software

GSL People News



Webb Mason (GM-A) received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service in recognition of his service while deployed to Iraq, Apr-Jul 2004. COL Rowan made the presentation on Nov 15. The initiating officer was COL Kurt Ubbelohde, Commander, Gulf Region Division-North. Webb's 2004 deployment experience was featured in the Jan 21 [ERDC Info Bulletin](#) (see page 9).

Julie Kelley (GS-G) received a Commander's Coin from LTG Strock during his late November visit with Corps team members deployed in Florida to support the hurricane recovery effort. Back at ERDC on Jan 18, in a presentation by COL Rowan, Julie was presented the Superior Civilian Service Award from the Corps' Southwestern Division for her services as a Geographical Information Systems Specialist while deployed in Iraq during Operation Restore Iraqi Oil (Nov 2003-Apr 2004). Julie was also presented the Service Citation of the Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq, signed by Ambassador Bremmer.



MAJ Robert Sheldon, British Liaison Officer (GV-JF), received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for his superior work with the Combined Weapons Effects Assessment Team in Iraq. Serving in a lieutenant colonel's assignment, Sheldon led one of three field assessment teams that compared weapons effects on the ground with previous weaponeering and targeting.

GSL People News

Retirement celebrations...

Bob Grau, Jan 3 —
celebrated on Jan 20



George Regan, Jan 3 — celebrated on Jan 26



Upcoming retirements: *Mich Alexander* on June 1 and *Ed Jackson* on June 3

About our deployed team members...

Currently deployed GSL team numbers include

- Webb Mason (GM-A) – second assignment; in Iraq since late January; extended to early July
- Edith Caples (GV-T) – Transatlantic Programs Center, Winchester, VA (Feb to mid-June)
- Dan Leavell (GS-E) – Afghanistan, mid-March for 60 days
- Mike Crawford (GM-A) – Afghanistan, late March for 60 days
- Chad Gartrell (GM-A) – recently deployed to Afghanistan for 60 days



Did you see this?

Webb Mason's deployment to Tikrit, Iraq (April-July 2004), was featured in an [ERDC Info Bulletin](#) (see page 9 of bulletin). When asked about the experience, Webb replied that his "most memorable moments were when some of our projects were completed and seeing the difference they made in upgrading the quality of life for our troops."

GSL People News (Continued)

Info from team members home from deployment...

Tim McCaffrey (GM-A) and Joe Tom (GM-C) deployed to Afghanistan in late January on a 2-month rotational tour specifically to support the construction of the new taxiway and runway at Bagram Airfield Project in Afghanistan. The project will possibly last over a year, and the agreement requires GSL support to maintain the Corps' laboratory and testing for the length of the project. Bagram Airfield is the primary airfield for the military.

Tim and Joe examined the storage facility at the contractor's concrete batch plant and worked toward bringing the contractor into compliance with the project specifications and with ACI and ASTM requirements.

Joe said that, apparently "all the personnel, equipment, supplies entering Afghanistan go through Bagram; they are the hub." In e-mails to ERDC sent while deployed, he explained that "the current runway was constructed by the Russians a few years ago and is severely deteriorated. Our assignment is to set up the Corps' quality assurance laboratory and begin conducting field and laboratory testing of the construction materials for soils, aggregates, concrete, and asphalt. We also must observe the contractor's technician to determine whether they're performing the testing correctly." He added that the hours were long and the days full.



Congratulations to...

- Vikki Edwards (GM-A), who received a Master of Science degree from the Department of Education and Human Development at the Dec 18, 2004, commencement of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.
- LTC Leon Jones (GM-T, pictured at right), who celebrated his promotion with GSL coworkers on Feb 14.



GSL People News

Way to go, guys!

The **ERDC-MCU Relay for Life team**, including several energetic GSL folks, helped raise \$6,086 for the American Cancer Society, won three awards, and had lots of fun doing it. The 2005 ERDC team, which was sponsored by Mutual Credit Union, honored four team members who are cancer survivors: Nancy Braswell, Susan Hicks, Tina Mayfield, and Barbara Dickens. Other team members included Kay Bennett (team captain), Judy and Joe Tom, Lillian Wakeley, Phyllis Foster, Lulu and Michael Edwards, and Reed Mosher of GSL; Sam Wong (GSL retiree) and Grace, Loanne Mosher, Wendy Thompson, Mazella Thomas, Carolyn Harrison, Cindy Teeter, Phyllis Birchett, Matthew Bounds, Eric Bounds, Marty May, Jerre Houston, Julie Cohen, Jeannine Beatty, Martha Almond, and Beth Jones.

In recognition of their super fund-raising skills, the ERDC-MCU team received the 2nd-place plaque for amount of money raised (more than \$2000 over the 2004 total). Another plaque—1st place, for best team spirit—was awarded for the team's creative "Bonanza" theme. The judges also recognized their delicious "Western omelets," by presenting a "best midnight snack" award.

Team member Carolyn Harrison offered an explanation for the team's success. "I think the main we won the 'Best Team Spirit Award' is because of the remarkable people on our team. Most of us have been together for five years and we come together once a year for an amazing cause. We have the most incredible group of people ever!"



If you haven't attended the Relay for Life, here's what happens. An opening ceremony begins the event, followed by a Survivor Walk and a Luminaria ceremony to honor cancer survivors and those who have not survived their battle with cancer. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. Activities and entertainment continue through the night, with a closing ceremony at 7 am the next morning.

The group is already making plans for next year, and your help and ideas would be welcomed! If you'd like to be a member of the 2006 team, contact [Kay Bennett](#) (x3241).

GSL New Employees

Wilmel Varela-Ortiz

Research Civil Engineer
Structural Engineering Branch
Ext. 2245

Wilmel is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. He plans to complete the requirements for a master's degree in structural engineering this year. Last summer, he participated in the Research Internship Program, as a member of StEB's Bridge Team. In 2003, he was an ERDC-UPRM summer intern in EL's Environmental Chemistry Lab. Most of his time outside the office is spent swimming or playing sports. His favorites are basketball, baseball, and volleyball.



Carmen Lugo

Research Civil Engineer
Survivability Engineering Branch
Ext. 3228

Carmen graduated from UPR-Mayagüez and holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering. She is working toward receiving a master's degree in structural engineering later this year. Although new to Survivability Engineering Branch, she is not a stranger to Vicksburg. The past two summers, she participated in the ERDC-UPRM Research Internship Program—first, as an Environmental Lab intern and then in GSL, working with both the Structural Mechanics Branch and the GSD Research Group. To relax, she spends time at the gym and enjoys listening to music.



Ryan Stinson

Research Civil Engineer
Survivability Engineering Branch
Ext. 3886

Ryan became a Government employee in January, having worked in GSL as a contract student for two summers and as a contractor with North Wind. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech and holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. He is a Vicksburg native and graduated from Vicksburg High in 1999. While there, he participated in basketball and soccer. These days, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing the guitar.



GSL New Employees (Continued)

Walter Barker

Research Civil Engineer
Airfields and Pavements Branch
Ext. 4873



Walter came onboard in January, as a rehired annuitant—almost 10 years from the date he retired from the GL Airfields and Pavements Division. Following his retirement in 1995, he was employed as Senior Pavements Engineer with Applied Research Associates. His 28-year Corps career was highlighted by a number of technical achievements, including development and enhancement of several computer programs and test procedures. He also initiated and led the PCASE group. For his research in the area of pavement design, he received the prestigious Army R&D Award. He earned his undergraduate degree from Ole Miss and holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Texas.

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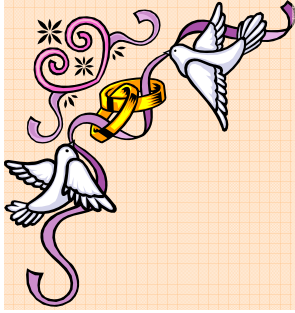
Several new contractors have come onboard recently:

- Lance Walker (GS-S, x2295)
- Sabrina Kingston-Miles (GM-B, x2839), formerly with ERDC Logistics Management
- Martin Boyd (GS, x2497)

Bio sketches of these folks will soon be posted on the [GSL Personnel Directory](#).

Our sincere condolences to...

- Pat McCaffrey (GM-A) and Tim McCaffrey (GM-A) and their family in the loss of their father, Patrick Street McCaffrey, who died Nov 18, 2004. Mr. McCaffrey was a former WES employee, who retired with 38 years of service.
- Rick Olsen (GS-E) and his family upon the death of his father, Irving E. Olsen, on Jan 1 in Portland, OR, following an extended illness. Mr. Olsen was a geotechnical engineer with Dames and Moore for more than 30 years and was elected president of the Structural Engineers Association of Oregon.
- Annette Harris (GS-B), whose mother, Annie Ruth Fortner, passed away Feb 10.
- Denis (GM-I) and Alicia Rickman, whose newborn baby died on April 30 in the Fort Walton Beach Hospital.
- Steve Shore (GS-G), whose father, James "Jim" B. Shore of Waynesville, NC, passed away on May 23.



Wedding bells...

Eileen Velez-Vega (GM-A) and Airangel Berrios (GM-C) were married on Jan 2 in Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico. The reception was held on a sunshiny day at Serralles Castle with 250 of their friends and family in attendance. Airangel even serenaded her at the reception with Mariachis in the background! For their honeymoon, they went on a 7-day cruise through the Caribbean to Aruba, Curacao, St. Marten, and St. Thomas. We wish them every happiness!



Serralles Castle



Airangel serenading Eileen at the reception



Honeymoon cruising

GSL People News (Continued)

- **Lucy Phillips** (GM-A) was nominated by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as one of the "New Faces of Engineering" for 2005. She was recognized during National Engineers Week and featured in *USA Today's* National Engineers Week advertisement.
- **Danny Harrelson** (GS-G) was re-elected Chairman of the Student Grant Committee of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies by the Association's Board of Directors in April.
- In April, the Key to the South Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals elected **Mary Gaines** (GM-T) as President-elect and **Julia Baker** (GS), Secretary-Treasurer. Also, **Julia** was the featured speaker at the luncheon for *Administrative Professionals Day*.
- **Evelyn Villanueva** (GS-G) was elected Chairman of the Lower Mississippi Valley Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, and Lillian Wakeley (GS-G) was elected Section Treasurer.
- **Daniel Leavell** (GS-E) received the American Council of Independent Laboratories' Public Service Award for 2005.
- In early March, **Mike Sharp** was competitively selected for a 1-year assignment as the TD for Civil Works Infrastructure.
- **Bill Grogan** was selected as permanent Deputy Director of GSL, effective May 15. Previously, Bill was Chief of GM-C.
- Also effective May 15, **David Horner** became the permanent TD for Force Projection and Maneuver Support.

GSL Family News

Welcome to...

Nichole Rhodes Andreatta, born on Nov 1, 2004. Proud parents are mom Sherrie and dad Rudolph Andreatta (GM-A). Nichole posed for the picture at right in Feb 2005.



Congratulations to...

The GSL families who are keeping in shape! For example, Maj. Walz (GS-S) and his wife Annelore did the **4th Annual Run Thru WES** on Feb 19 as a fitness check—prior to the Run Thru History on Mar 5. There were some especially good results for Germany! In the WES Run, Maj. Walz finished 2nd in the Men's 10K Run, and his wife Annelore was 2nd in the Women's 5K Walk. Walz commented that "running against competitors from local USACE offices (ERDC, MVK, MVD, 412th) was fun." Also, he said, "The course through WES with its small hills was challenging, but as a "German Southerner" I'm used to running on hilly terrain."



Maj. Michael Walz (L) and his wife Annelore (R) both placed in the Run Thru WES



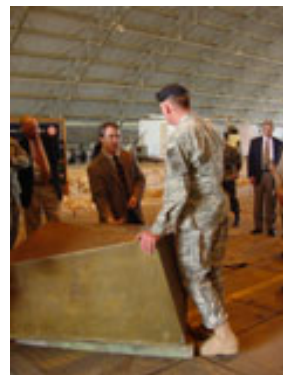
Another feisty competitor was Kaden, the 8-year-old son of Steve Rowell, a contractor in GS-M. Steve said the race was Kaden's first, and he really enjoyed it. Kaden has a genetic skin disorder called Lamellar Ichthyosis, so you may notice a slight difference in his skin texture. According to Steve, Kaden is "100% boy and loves life with a passion."



Kaden Rowell (2nd from left in group photo above, and at right) proudly wears his medal—for second place in the 1-Mile Fun Run



General Strock's visit, Apr 20



Photos courtesy of Bob Larson (GS-G)

ERDC engineers and scientists know that getting published in professional journals is very important. However, the topic isn't usually addressed in their formal education. At the January GSL **Self-Development Seminar**, about 20 GSL researchers got some help on the subject. A panel of three experienced GSL authors and writers—Paul Mlakar, Ellis Krinitzsky, and Clay Blount—described their experiences and answered questions from the audience.



Getting Published — topic addressed in January Self-Development Seminar

"Publication panelists" were (L to R in photo): Clay Blount, Paul Mlakar, and Ellis Krinitzsky

Dr. Mlakar has authored some 150 technical publications and serves as a reviewer for a number of engineering journals. Dr. Krinitzsky has about 40 peer-reviewed papers plus many conference and technical papers to his credit, as well as three books. Also, he has served for 18 years as an editor of the *International Journal of Engineering Geology*. Clay has written 25 technical publications and, last year, published a novel, *Birthright*.

The book *Successful Publishing in Scholarly Journals* (Bruce A. Thyer, 1994, Sage Publications), which is available in the ERDC-Vicksburg Library) was recommended. Among the book's helpful suggestions are tips on collaborating to foster productive publishing. Examples include helping others draft or revise stalled articles, asking others to help you, and younger colleagues assisting established experts—combining a drawer-full of data with fresh initiative.

Dr. Krinitzsky emphasized the importance of establishing a professional reputation and "having something to say." Related to this, Dr. Pittman recommended that everyone "become active in at least one professional society."

CFC — GSL set new record!!

"This is the first time in GSL history that we've broken the magic \$50K," said Julia Baker. She expressed her thanks "to all the very generous donors." GSL's donations totaled \$50,899.28, with 43% participation (112 donators of GSL's 260 FTP/ADM). These included 28 Eagles and 19 Super Eagles. And, Julia added, "Unfortunately, we didn't get to count our 17 generous contractors in our statistics."

[GSL Keyworkers not pictured: Dot Fenwick, Fannie Glasper, Tina Holmes, Linda Jones, Erin Williams, Sherrie Johnson, Vicky Johnston]



GSL's CFC Keyworkers were [L to R] Kathy Friar, Ed Jackson, Phyllis Foster, Rae Eikert, Dorothy Staer, Julia Baker, and Donna Rowland

For your health

Concerned about steadily expanding waistlines, the U.S. government (on Apr 19) sacked its one-size-fits-all food pyramid in favor of a dozen different guides geared to individual nutritional needs and lifestyles. **Exercise** is key to the new system. The MyPyramid Plan can help you choose the foods and amounts that are right for you. (Check out the latest WES Fitness Center schedule, posted on the [GSL Intranet](#).)



Visit the [USDA Web site](#) for a quick estimate of what and how much you need to eat. (Enter your age, sex, and activity level in the box provided there.)

Wow, GSL! Congratulations!
You really showed your stuff at the ERDC Awards Ceremony!
(photos on the following pages—courtesy ITL-Photo Lab)

Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award

Nicholas Boone
James Cargile
Bartley Durst
Joshua Fairley

William Hossley
Jose Llopis
Milton Myers
Richard Olsen

James Ray
Jason Roth
Terry R. Stanton
Gerardo Velazquez

Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service

Robert Larson

ERDC Research and Development Achievement Award

Gary L. Anderton, Ernest S. Berney, Chad A. Gartrell, Travis A. Mann,
D. Kelly Miller, and J. Kent Newman

Nicholas Boone, Toney Cummins, James Davis, Bartley Durst, William Heard,
Pamela Kinnebrew, Thomas McGill, Jason Roth, Ryan Stinson, Thomas Slawson

ERDC Award for Outstanding Achievement In Technology Transfer

Philip Malone, Joe Tom, Charles Weiss

ERDC Award for Excellence in Operational Support

Ernest Berney, Michael Crawford, Roosevelt Felix, Chad Gartrell, Andrew Harrison, Quintin Mason,
Tim McCaffrey, Alan Middleton (ITL), Lucious Moore (DPW), John Rushing, and Jeb Tingle

Richard Burrow (ITL), Jeffrey Crockett, Corwin Currie (ITL), Katie Fairley, T. C. Falls,
William Fryer (ITL), Mary Gaines, Shirley Griffin, Jill Jackson, Leon Jones, Jeffrey Jorgeson (CHL),
Julie Kelley, Leo Koestler (ITL), Larry Lynch, Herman Parks (ITL), Roy Pipkin,
Toy Poole, Jeff Powell (ITL), Jody Priddy, Bryan Register (ITL), Lewis Smithhart (ITL),
Rhonda Taylor, Benjamin Webb, and Jeffrey Williamson

(Continued)

WES Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees

James McDonald and Lawson Smith

Herbert D. Vogel Awards — Engineer

Jeb Tingle

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Gary Anderton
Maureen Corcoran
Toney Cummins
James Davis
Joseph Dunbar
T. C. Falls
Reed Freeman

Bradley Foust
Carlos Gonzalez
Brian Green
William Heard
Carol Johnson
Julie Kelley
Robert Larson

Howard McGee
Thomas McGill
George McKinley
Gordon McMahon
Kent Newman
Photios Papados
Thomas Patton

Stephanie Price
Jody Priddy
Denis Rickman
Thomas Slawson
Benjamin Webb
Jon Windham
Stanley Woodson

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Rebecca Berger
Richard Cooper
Belton P. Dent, Jr.
Phyllis Foster

Fannie Glasper
Niki Goerger
Wendell Gray
Jim W. Hall III
Daniel Miller

Ryan North
Tracey Waddell
Rodney Walters
Sue Wolfe





Renovations and “spring cleaning”...



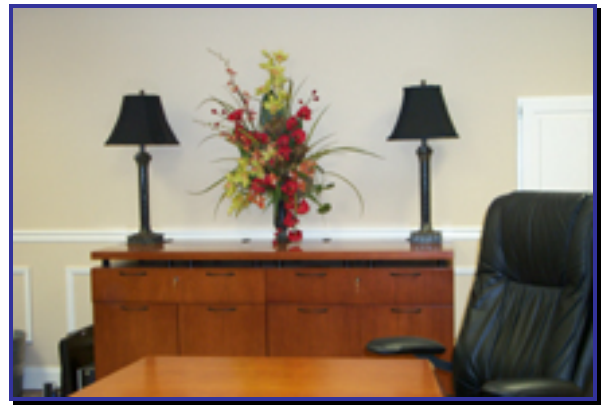
Do you remember this?



Did you see this happening?



Nice chairs, huh?



A classy look we're all proud of!

Renovation of the 4th-floor conference room of the Casagrande Building is almost complete.

Come take a look!



Pressure-washing of the Casagrande Building is also nearly complete.